

Carefree 1051

Chapter 1051: Making Things Difficult

"It's true that most things don't go according to plan in life!" Fang Yuan sighed as he left the Myriad Symbols Palace.

Although there was a staggeringly vast amount of magical powers and mystic techniques in the palace, it did not have what he wanted the most.

"I didn't even find anything that was remotely related to a clone mystic technique. But there were three time-type magical powers. Unfortunately, not only are they prohibitively expensive, but they're even more unsuitable for inscribing on the Clam Dragon...

"But I still need to exchange for these magical powers as a reserve! I can't let space-type magical powers slip by either."

Fang Yuan was determined.

However, you still needed to have contribution points to exchange for magical powers in the Myriad Symbols Palace.

These contributions naturally referred to contributions to the barbarians and the Holy Mountain, and you could only obtain them by doing missions.

Of course, he could also turn in some magical powers, magic artifacts, information, and so on to exchange for them. However, he could only do it a few times. If he tried to turn in all the magical powers and cultivation techniques from the Pantheon Palace, the Holy Mountain would inevitably become suspicious.

"Robbing them won't work either. Looks like I will have to do missions."

Fang Yuan's eyes were still burning with determination. "After all, there are Immortal Patriarchs on Holy Mountain, so I can't be too presumptuous. At least, I'll have to wait until I have some certainty of success!"

This did not mean fighting the Immortals. As long as they could not do anything about it, it would be a success!

In this regard, even the Pantheon Palace was somewhat powerless.

After all, even if an Immortal's spiritual will did not detect it, as long as they saw Fang Yuan hiding in the immortal abode, they could quickly conclude what Fang Yuan was up to. By then, they could just scan the place inch by inch to find the Pantheon Pantheon, and then Fang Yuan would only be able to passively withstand attacks.

"I'll at least have to wait until the Illusion Realm's nomological laws reach large success if I want to do as I please in the Hundred Thousand Mountains."

The large success in the Illusion Realm's nomological laws was just one step shy of complete comprehension.

When the Nomological Laws of Saber achieved large success, it would produce Saber Realm.

And the Illusion Realm's nomological laws reaching large success had to be even more terrifying!

After all, the harder the nomological laws were to comprehend, the more powerful they were! If he could completely comprehend the Illusion Realm's nomological laws, then its power might rival some lesser Great Daos!

"The Dao of Space is the best for mobility and saving myself. By that time, even Immortals can't do anything to me, and then I'll be able to do many things."

This was the bar Fang Yuan set for himself before he would venture outside the Hundred Thousand Mountain.

"Master!" He returned to the residence and saw Saber King Mo He.

"Hmm, how's your saber practice coming along?"

"I drew my saber ten thousand times and seemed to have gained something!" Fang Yuan waved his hand and unleashed Saber Qi that was stronger than yesterday.

"Nice, really nice!" Mo He was dumbfounded for a moment and then became speechless.

Such a strong disciple learns anything incredibly quickly. It's quite a blow to the master... he thought resignedly.

However, he put on a smile on his face. "There's indeed quite some improvement. Oh right, I heard that you were gathering the blood of nine types of mutated beasts and a thousand-year Blue Heart Fruit?"

He tossed over a few gourds.

"Blood of the lava-heart snake, infinite-strength heaven azure bull, and flying heaven thunder beast?" Fang Yuan checked the contents and was slightly shocked. "Thank you, Master!"

"There are plenty of mutated beasts in the Hundred Thousand Mountains, and obtaining some blood is easy. But that isn't the case for the thousand-year Blue Heart Fruit. It's at the level of heavenly materials and earthly treasures and is a little troublesome..."

Mo He was slightly puzzled. "What do you need them for?"

"I had a fateful encounter and obtained a body refining technique. I need these things for that," Fang Yuan answered half truthfully.

"I see. Indeed, a powerful body is very compatible with the Nomological Laws of Saber!" Mo He exclaimed. "As for this thousand-year Blue Heart Fruit, there's an elder on the Holy Mountain, but... I have a grudge with him."

Fang Yuan rolled his eyes inside his mind when he heard this.

It seemed all of the Apotheosis realm elders on the Holy Mountain had some sort of enmity with Saber King Mo He. This kind of enemy-making ability was also remarkable.

He wondered if Mo He's other in-name disciple had the feeling that they had been conned.

"Oh well. I'll put down my pride and go see Wu Qi!" Mo He gritted his teeth, and Fang Yuan began feeling hopeful.

It seemed like it was just a small grudge.

He eagerly wanted the thousand-year Blue Heart Fruit. If he managed to gather all the materials, he would be able to immediately reach the second level of the Hundred Physical Forging Technique, which also meant the fifth star of the Nine Star Pearl Mystic Technique!

He had already unlocked four stars and was comparable to the peak of the Primordial Core realm. If he could unlock the fifth star, even if his advantage in comprehending nomological laws would be overtaken by Apotheosis realm powerhouses, he would at least be able to use his own strength to stay alive in front of them.

...

Wu Qi's residence was higher up the Holy Mountain, letting Fang Yuan know that his power and status were obviously a level higher than Mo He.

"Wu Qi!" Mo He entered the door directly after reaching the place.

There were singing and dancing in the great hall, and a fat and bald barbarian sat on the main seat enjoying himself. His eyes suddenly widened when he saw Mo He. "Mo He!? Why are you here?"

"I heard you have a thousand-year Blue Heart Fruit. I am willing to trade for it with five dao talismans. What do you think?" Mo He tried his best to sound humble.

"Thousand-year Blue Heart Fruit? Mo He... are you... are you pleading with me?"

Wu Qi was taken aback and immediately touched the scar on his bald head.

"That's right!" Mo He said through gritted teeth.

"Haha... Who would have thought that the proud Saber King Mo He would one day have to plead with others? But... no!" Wu Qi squinted his small eyes. "I won't let you have your way!"

"I'm not doing this for myself. It's for my disciple." Mo He frowned.

"This doesn't change anything. He can only blame himself for choosing the wrong master!" Wu Qi looked at Fang Yuan and shifted his eyes. "Little fellow, you're rather unlucky, but that's not a problem. I will put this thousand-year Blue Heart Fruit up as a mission reward. If you want it, go do my mission. Haha..."

"In that case, we're leaving!" Mo He turned around and left with Fang Yuan.

"I keep feeling... he still hates you..." On the way, Fang Yuan asked doubtfully, "What grudge does he have with you?"

"Oh!" Mo He turned around and answered nonchalantly, "That scar on his head... I made it!"

Fang Yuan had nothing to say.

...

He knew long beforehand that Saber King Mo He had offended many people on the Holy Mountain and had bad relationships.

However, only after a detailed investigation did he know exactly how 'bad' it was.

According to Mo He himself, the grudge between him and the fatso Wu Qi was on the more trivial side. After all, it was only a single strike in a duel.

"The Mission Hall refreshed the list today. That Wu Qi has indeed published a mission to investigate the borders, and the thousand-year Blue Heart Fruit is part of the reward."

Fang Yuan put the cards on the table with Mo He. "Master seems to have had some profound intentions with your actions yesterday."

"You found out?" Mo He smiled slightly. "Of course, it would have been best if Wu Qi agreed, but since he didn't, I used the moral high ground of training a new disciple to pressure him. I offered something that far exceeded the value of the thousand-year Blue Heart Fruit. As a result, he had to do something. Otherwise, I wouldn't have minded debating with him over it at the patriarch's place."

Fang Yuan was a new disciple, and for his first time asking, he needed a thousand-year Blue Heart Fruit. If Wu Qi kept it at all costs, he would damage his reputation. It also would not be in line with some of the unspoken rules of the Holy Mountain.

As such, Wu Qi put it up as a mission reward, a way making things difficult that was allowed within the unspoken rules.

"However, the Mission Hall likely won't publish missions that will certainly kill you. As long as it's published, the rewards will scale proportionally with the difficulty. Just go and accept the mission!" Mo He said. "This is also some training for you. Although the journey will surely be arduous, you won't be qualified to obtain the thousand-year Blue Heart Fruit if you can't overcome the hardships and obstacles on the way!"

"Yes!"

Fang Yuan had a rough understanding of Mo He's character now.

Although he taught his disciples diligently, he did not mind putting them in dangers that were not guaranteed to kill them.

According to him, the moment when life-and-death hung in the balance was the best opportunity for sudden enlightenment.

Sigh... He's truly a saber maniac that loves to take risks. Although rewards are great, he would lose everything with one wrong step... He was lucky to have returned to the Holy Mountain alive and live out his last years in peace.

Fang Yuan rolled his eyes. "In that case, I'll go and accept the mission."

“Okay, go!” Mo He smiled. “Don’t forget to cultivate on the road and reach the Primordial Core realm as soon as you can!”

This seems... rather interesting.

Fang Yuan’s lips immediately curled up as he stepped out of the courtyard.

As a Demon God, even if he was still in the dormant phase, he had many tricks up his sleeve. It was good enough that he was not giving anyone trouble. But others wanted to give him trouble?

Mo He wants to temper me, and his enemy wants to kill me. But at the beginning, the most he would send are some people at Primordial Core. What do I have to be scared of?

Even if Apotheosis realm powerhouses came after him, as long as Fang Yuan hid in the Pantheon Palace, he would not have to worry about a thing.

With this trump card, he naturally had nothing to fear.

“Anyway, I’ll finish this mission as soon as possible and obtain the thousand-year Blue Heart Fruit!”

...

Inside a palace’s secret room.

Wu Qi caressed the saber scar on his head with a gloomy expression.

He would never forget the man that made him suffer a horrible defeat, let alone forget that saber strike that nearly took his life.

“Mo He, oh Mo He... I can’t do anything to you if you hide on the Holy Mountain, but plenty of Apotheosis realm experts on the Holy Mountain wish for your death. And there are even more outside the Holy Mountain...

“Since you want to help your disciple, I won’t let you have your way!

“Not only that, I will kill him and end your line of succession!”

For some masters, their disciples were even closer to them than their own children.

Seeing how Saber King Mo He was even willing to act humble before him for Fang Yuan’s sake, this disciple had to be extremely important to him. Killing him would certainly make Mo He miserable.

Wu Qi rubbed his thick chin, and his small eyes glowed with viscousness. “The Mission Hall won’t publish missions that will definitely kill the mission-taker, and the corresponding difficulty for the thousand-year Blue Heart Fruit isn’t too high either. However, I don’t need to do this myself. As long as I let the word out, haha...”

The Holy Mountain forbade internecine strife, and Wu Qi did not have the courage to do it either.

However, he did have the courage to spread the word and let others deal with Fang Yuan!

“Boy who made Mo He your master, you’re out of luck this time!”

Chapter 1052: Discovery

“Although the Hundred Thousand Mountain is dangerous, it still connects to the outside world at the Agonizing Eagle Gorge, Golden River, and Death Plains...

“These three borders are all very dangerous, but there exist merchants who are willing to risk their lives to traverse them in order to earn ten times more or even a hundred times more profit!

“At the same time, some outside sects want to infiltrate the Hundred Thousand Mountains! Traces of cultivators were found near the Agonizing Eagle Gorge, and I need to go there to investigate!”

Riding a four-winged griffin, Fang Yuan opened the mission scroll and immediately knew more about the outside world.

In fact, most of the missions on the Holy Mountain were tailored for the Primordial Core realm disciples.

At their cultivation level, they were strong enough to obtain this high-level information.

“Outside cultivators? I want to see what this is about!”

...

The Eagle tribe was a small tribe near the Agonizing Eagle Gorge. Although the living conditions were harsh, ‘merchants’ came here occasionally. They would trade materials such as beast skins, ores, herbs, and so on for steel weapons, white salt, and beautiful fabric and continue to survive.

Therefore, this small tribe endured the living conditions through gritted teeth and did not choose to migrate.

In a small woods nearby, two groups of youngsters were confronting each other.

Although one group was few in number, they appeared triumphant. On the other hand, the larger group looked like they were merely putting on a fierce front but were actually weak.

“Hei Tu, you’ve gone too far. Lan Yue is my woman!”

A youth with large hands and feet and carrying a hunting bow on his back walked forward red-faced.

“Hmph. We are bloodline warriors and should eat the most succulent meat, drink the finest wine, and sleep the most beautiful women!”

A few youngsters showed their totem and were insufferably arrogantly. Their leader even curled his finger tauntingly. “Or... you can challenge me. If you win, I will return Lan Yue to you!”

“Argh!!” The young hunter yelled toward the sky, on the verge of tears.

The barbarians had a tradition of robbing others’ brides. He and Lan Yue both loved each other, but who would have thought that Lan Yue would be snatched by the leader of these young totem warriors, Hei Tu, on their wedding day!

Indeed, the only way to take Lan Yue back was to defeat Hei Tu.

The young hunter finally shouted, “I-I challenge you!”

“Good. You’re courting your own death!” Hei Tu was delighted. “You all heard it. He’s the one who issued the warrior challenge to me, so he can’t blame me if he dies!”

Roar Roar!

Behind him, a black tiger totem emerged and pounced.

Although the young hunter tried hard to swing his knife, the tiger managed to swipe his arm, causing blood to gush out.

Even without being at the Materialization realm, a totem’s physical enhancement made fighting ordinary people a piece of cake.

“Die!” Hei Tu kicked the young man over with one foot and stepped on his face with the other.

“Stop!” The shout came with a pebble cutting through the air.

“Hmm?” Hei Tu used his hand to block the pebble, and his entire body felt like a heavy hammer had hit him. He took a few steps back. “It’s you... Hei Jue?”

“Big Bro Hei Jue, you’re finally here!”

The other youngsters quickly made way for him. Hei Jue was clearly highly regarded among them.

“Hei Tu, don’t take things too far!”

Hei Jue was a thin, black young man with ordinary looks, and he was frowning.

“Everything I’ve done is in accordance with the tribe’s rules!” Hei Tu said proudly. “We are bloodline warriors, and you’re just mortals! Good things should belong to us!”

Only one in ten thousand could awaken totems. Moreover, they could master all kinds of amazing magical powers later on.

Compared to them, ordinary barbarians were indeed mere mortals.

“Really? Then I’ll show you the strength of mortals today!”

Hei Jue raised his iron sword with a solemn expression.

“Sword? Fancy but useless stuff from the outside world!”

Hei Tu obviously did not dare to be careless against Hei Jue and drew his saber. “Kill!”

He pounced forward fiercely and slashed with his saber.

Ding!

The clear sound of metal clashing rang out. The iron sword narrowly pierced Hei Tu’s arm, making him drop the saber and bleed.

“What? How could I lose to someone without a totem?” Hei Tu’s eyes were wide, his face full of disbelief.

“Get lost!” Hei Jue’s expression was cold while thinking to himself, According to Master’s instructions, I am just an ordinary person in the eyes of the barbarian higher-ups. Defeating totem warriors using combat skills alone is still within reason, but I would have to admit defeat immediately if I run into Materialization realm experts. Otherwise, I’d be in big trouble!

“Hei Jue, you just wait!” Hei Tu cursed angrily before turning to leave. After I advance to the Materialization realm, I will kill him!

Materialization cultivators were almost the strongest within small tribes, comparable to Brutal Thunder of the Flybarb tribe.

No one would dare question him casually killing someone ordinary if he had this status.

“Thank you, Big Bro Hei Jue!” The youngster wearing animal skin said sincerely, “My life is yours from now on!”

“We’re brothers. No need to be polite!” Hei Jue patted his chest and put on a righteous front. “Let’s go have some wine and meat!”

By nighttime, a figure sneaked out of the tribe and into the woods.

“Greetings, Master!”

The figure was none other than Hei Jue. He entered a cave and saw a middle-aged man wearing robes in front of him. He kowtowed. “Today, I...”

“Hmm, according to what you said, using martial arts to defeat a Predatory realm warrior is no big deal...” The middle-aged man nodded slowly after listening. “However... although I told you to gather men and raise your reputation, you must take care not to reveal too much of your martial power. Understood?”

“Understood!” Hei Jue nodded solemnly. “The totem warriors are above us. We mortals must accumulate enough strength to topple them completely before taking action!”

“It’s good that you understand this. How’s your progress with the ‘Three Sun Diagram’ that I passed to you?”

“Master, I have some questions...” Hei Jue was pleased to hear the question.

What his master taught him was an extremely ingenious cultivation technique that even ordinary people without totems could cultivate.

This was the hope of becoming strong!

“All right... what I’ve taught you today is enough to last until mid Foundation Establishment. Find me again after you break through!”

The middle-aged man nodded and sent Hei Jue away. “Unexpectedly, this barbarian has decent comprehension regarding cultivation. It’s a pity his talent isn’t top tier!”

The outside world had an entirely different cultivation system compared to totems.

As a result, even ordinary barbarians could produce extremely talented geniuses!

Moreover, even if the comprehension of barbarians was mostly mediocre, exceptions happened occasionally.

Once discovered, the sect that the middle-aged cultivator belonged to would abduct them and turn them into direct disciples.

These recruiters, including the middle-aged man himself, were actually just cannon fodder!

"It can't be helped. The Hundred Thousand Mountains is just too attractive. Mutated beasts, heavenly materials and earthly treasures, and precious ores are all very important for cultivation... In addition, with these many barbarians, it's possible that someone with peerless cultivation talent will emerge!"

The middle-aged man sighed. "It's infuriating that the Barbarian Ancestral Court is too barbaric and foolish and won't allow the cultivation forces to infiltrate. If it weren't for those few Immortal Patriarchs, we would have leveled the barbarian mountains long ago."

"Level the barbarian mountains, that's impressive!" A youth in beast skin appeared with a smile on his face. "I wonder which sect you're from?"

"Hmm? Barbarian Materialization cultivator?" The middle-aged cultivator paused for a second and then thought to himself resentfully, He must have followed Hei Jue here. What a fool, being careless and ruining my plan!

"My dao name is Venerable Illusion Realm. You are..." Fang Yuan casually made up a name.

"Venerable? You're merely a Materialization cultivator, equivalent to our Foundation Establishment stage and below Golden Core, but you have the face to call yourself a venerable?" The middle-aged man sneered. "My name is Liu He, and my dao name is Venerable Willow!"

His eyes darted around. I wonder if this Venerable Illusion Realm followed Hei Jue here alone, or did he already report to the powerful barbarians?

If it was the first case, he could kill Fang Yuan and continue hiding.

If it was the second case, he would have to completely abandon this place.

"Rest assured. I just happened to meet that youth in the Eagle tribe and followed him here out of curiosity... You haven't answered my question, sir," said Fang Yuan with a smile, seeming as though he could read Liu He's thoughts.

"Haha... people like me are already doomed the moment we're sent out from the sect. Why would I tell others my sect's name?" Liu He said calmly.

His spiritual will was expanding rapidly. This Venerable Illusion Realm dared to come here despite being at the Materialization realm. He must have backup!

"Go ahead. I haven't met any Golden Core cultivators from the outside world. I hope you don't... disappoint!"

Fang Yuan drew his Nine Profound Spirit Saber and swung casually.

Zap!

External Saber Qi that was a few meters long appeared and crashed toward Liu He like a furious dragon.

“Phantom Shield!”

In front of Liu He, a small black shield appeared to block the Saber Qi. It produced a loud noise that shook the cave, and rocks started raining down.

“Go!”

The two powerful men exchanged glances, and both flew out of the cave as rays of light.

“You actually have a spirit artifact!” Looking at the saber in Fang Yuan’s hands and the shallow mark on the Phantom Shield, a pained expression appeared on Venerable Liu He’s face.

“There’s actually no ambush?” His expression turned joyful, and a small sword that was just a foot long flew out from his body. The sword enlarged in an instant, and then he stood on it.

Flying on a sword!

This was a specialty of outside cultivators. On the other hand, barbarians were unable to fly using their bodies before the Apotheosis realm unless they used a flying magical power.

“Another one who wants to take the positional advantage!”

Fang Yuan shook his head, and a cloud of mist appeared below his feet, carrying him into the air.

“Ride on Clouds Magical Power!”

Venerable Liu He nodded. “Your talent can be considered excellent. Unfortunately, you are going to die today!”

Chapter 1053: Comrades

Liu He was a Golden Core Venerable, equivalent to the Primordial Core realm of the barbarians!

Dealing with someone at the Materialization realm was like using a sledgehammer to kill a fly.

With a flick of his sleeve, dense and numerous Sword Qi appeared in the air.

“It seems... the cultivators from outside might not have the assistance of a totem, but they’re well versed in the use of magic artifacts and the comprehension of nomological laws!”

Fang Yuan nodded. “Come!”

“Ten Thousand Swords, go!” Liu He stretched out a finger, and Sword Qi fell like raindrops.

“Attack!” Fang Yuan drew his saber and chopped. White radiance flooded the world like the sun, melting the overwhelming Sword Qi.

“Hmm?” Liu He was startled. “You... comprehended Saber Realm?”

Even among these outside cultivators, being able to comprehend Saber Realm at the Foundation Establishment stage was an incredible feat.

“How is it?” Fang Yuan confronted Liu He while holding his saber.

“I underestimated you, but...” Liu He’s face flashed red, and a sword domain appeared and expanded.

“About time!” Fang Yuan laughed loudly, letting Saber Realm and Sword Realm clash, numerous Saber Qi and Sword Qi dissipate. They were actually on par.

“This Venerable Illusion Realm!” Liu He was incomparably shocked. “His cultivation is lower than mine, but he can fight evenly with me. Obviously, his compression of the Nomological Laws of Saber has surpassed mine of the sword!”

“It seems like... there’s no way to kill someone at Golden Core with my most basic strength!” Fang Yuan tried a few times but still shook his head. “Take this!”

He rode on the cloud and rushed forward.

“Die!” Liu He immediately mobilized many flying swords to poke numerous holes into this figure, yet no blood flowed out.

“Hmm? Illusion?”

He, of course, did not know that it was all too easy for Fang Yuan’s Clam Dragon totem to fool Golden Core spiritual will.

At this moment, Fang Yuan appeared by his side and chopped out!

“Go!” In his shock, Liu He spat out another sword light onto the saber.

“Double Blade!” Fang Yuan’s eyes shone. Beside the original saber, a second one appeared. It cut through Liu He’s body and split his Golden Core.

Ping!

The Golden Core immediately exploded, and the small human figure within instantly disappeared.

“Good!” Fang Yuan landed on the ground and savored that blow just now.

“This is indeed the Illusion Realm’s nomological laws. I’ve only comprehended basic mastery, and it has helped me defeat a powerful enemy!

“If I couple my current strength with the Nine Star Pearl, killing ordinary Primordial Core cultivators would be as easy as killing chicken!”

The Double Blade technique used the principle of spatial refraction.

Like just now, Liu He had clearly avoided the fatal blow from the visible saber, but how was he going to dodge the same saber with the same force appearing right beside it? He had not been ready for it!

“I wonder if he has anything good on him...” Fang Yuan went to the side of Liu He’s corpse and turned it over slightly. “Three spirit artifacts—a phantom shield and two flying swords—some pills and clothing... No cultivation manuals nor identity tokens... If I were to return like this, it wouldn’t count as fulfilling my task.”

His task was to investigate, and it would have been best to capture Liu He alive and have some solid proof.

Unfortunately, he did not think too much when killing Liu He. Furthermore, there was no token on him.

“But... he obviously belongs to a sect. There should be someone behind him. Well, I can always bring that Hei Jue back as a witness!”

The path of cultivation was free, and everything had the chance to be successful. To be honest, Fang Yuan appreciated that Hei Jue, but he would not show any mercy if there was a conflict of interest.

“I’m a barbarian and have a totem after all! Would the outside cultivation world really accept me if I were to rely on them?” Fang Yuan sneered.

The world outside was wary of people outside their race, and the same went for the barbarians.

It was simply foolish to abandon his roots before amassing decisive power.

...

“Wu Cheng, leader of the Eagle tribe, humbly greets the envoy from the Holy Mountain!” A middle-aged man in beast hides bowed to Fang Yuan.

“Okay, bring a few of your men and follow me!” Fang Yuan said lightly.

“Understood!” Wu Cheng immediately ordered, “Hei Yong, bring Hei Tu and some others. Follow me!”

The group found Hei Jue and his friends still eating meat.

“Haha... Hei Jue, you better surrender!” Hei Tu shouted

“Hmm?” Hei Jue turned, saw Fang Yuan and the rest, and his pupils shrank. He sprung up immediately.

“Leader and this master here. I have a grudge with Hei Tu, so please don’t just listen to his side of the story!”

“You are one of the rare smart ones among the barbarians. You correctly guessed that my status isn’t lower than your leader and suspected that Hei Tu accused you. Such a pity...

“Why did you seek the cultivation methods of the outside world and betray us barbarians?” Fang Yuan asked suddenly.

“What?” Many youngsters were astonished.

The biggest crime among the barbarians was betraying the Holy Mountain, defecting to the outside world, and learning their cultivation methods.

The so-called ‘cultivation methods’ were naturally the fundamental cultivation techniques of the cultivation world.

As for martial arts like the Chaotic Cloak, they were common, and most importantly, they could not pose any threat to the higher echelons and were therefore not banned.

I can’t admit this! Hei Jue bit his lips. “Sir, do you have evidence?”

“Evidence? My words themselves constitute evidence!” Fang Yuan glared and waved his saber casually.

Zap!

A thread of Saber Qi fell from above Hei Jue, threatening to cut him in half.

“Ahh!”

Feeling Fang Yuan’s killing intent, Hei Jue exploded. A green leaf magic artifact appeared above his head and blocked the attack.

“See?” Fang Yuan smiled. “Even the strongest warrior in your tribe probably wouldn’t be able to take him down. He didn’t awaken his totem, so isn’t this learning the cultivation methods of the outside world?”

“You have a great eye, Sir! Hei Jue, what else do you have to say!” Hei Tu exclaimed excitedly. This is the end for Hei Jue!

“Go!” Hei Jue gritted his teeth and stepped onto the green leaf magic artifact in an attempt to fly away.

But just at that moment, two External Saber Qi appeared and penetrated his legs, making him scream and roll down.

“Seal his dantian, pluck his teeth, and bound his limbs. Be careful. You absolutely can’t let him die!”

He was important evidence for Fang Yuan to complete his mission, and he was not going to let go of it.

“Eh?” He looked up and saw a black dot not far away.

That black dot became bigger until it finally became a majestic four-winged griffin.

Chirp chirp!

The huge griffin landed on the ground, flapping its wings and moving sand about.

A few Primordial Core realm cultivators jumped down, two males and one female. The female with a red dot between her eyebrows asked happily, “Are you Junior Brother Fang Yuan?”

“It’s me. You are...” Fang Yuan stepped forward.

“We are also disciples of the Holy Mountain that took on the investigative mission. We happened to see Junior Brother’s registration. How about we do the mission together?” The girl with the red mole smiled with a touch of intimacy.

“Senior Brothers and Senior Sister are...”

“I’m Hong Ling. These two are Qing Meng and Yuan Wu!” Hong Ling smiled as she introduced the other two young men.

Qing Meng was on the thin side, while Yuan Wu was rather big with a murderous glint in his eyes.

“Every disciple from the Holy Mountain should unite and help each other out. Junior Brother, your cultivation is lower, so we should complete the mission together!” Qing Meng said, showing concern.

Hmph, one who is unaccountably solicitous is hiding evil intentions. Moreover... Mo He has few good friends on the Holy Mountain... Fang Yuan sneered in his heart. "Thank you, Seniors, but I've already completed the mission!"

"What?" This startled Hong Ling, and she quickly exchanged glances with the other two.

"I was lucky to find the trace of a cultivator when I came to the Eagle tribe. I've killed him and have taken down this dark seed, Hei Jue! He cultivated the methods from the outside world and was in contact with the cultivators! The patriarchs will know once they interrogate him."

There was no shortage of hallucination and soul-searching methods in the Holy Mountain. Even Fang Yuan could use an illusion to make Hei Jue spit out the truth.

"Good! Junior Brother is amazing!" Hong Ling said merrily. "However, one Hei Jue is a bit inadequate since he's just cannon fodder. Would he know the names of the sects behind this?"

"This..." Fang Yuan feigned hesitation.

"Come, we've been busy all the way. Let's have a good meal first before discussing this," Hong Ling suggested with a smile.

"That's it!" Qing Meng seemed to think of something as his eyes brightened. He secretly transmitted, "This guy is just at the Materialization realm. The elder of the mission hall won't nitpick since he could complete his mission to this stage. We should... kill Hei Jue secretly so that he has no choice but to continue the mission with us!"

"Hong Ling and I will keep Fang Yuan busy. Yuan Wu, you kill him secretly. Be careful to make it seem like he died of heavy internal injuries..."

...

In a cave, some distance away from the Eagle tribe.

Fog surrounded it, obviously an array, and there was a simple building in the center.

"Liu He is dead!" An old man in purple-gold robe suddenly opened his eyes and touched the storage bag around his waist. A broken jade emerged from it. "He went to the Eagle tribe, right? Did he meet with a strong enemy? Send the order down to the agents nearby to see what happened."

Liu He's life-and-death jade was not a blood jade. It had a simple notification function to tell this leader that he was dead.

An Immortal Patriarch had to be willing to make a real blood jade with a few rare and precious materials. Only the core disciples of the outside world had them.

Originally, Liu He was not even fit to have a life-and-death jade. However, he had received one since he was undercover in the Hundred Thousand Mountains.

Chapter 1054: Mysterious Realm

A few days later.

Fang Yuan followed Hong Ling and the rest into the Agonizing Eagle Gorge.

Hong Ling exchanged glances with Yuan Wu and Qing Meng and then turned her head to comfort him. "Sigh... Junior Brother, you are really unlucky. You caught a spy, but he died of his injuries..."

"I never thought that a cultivator would have such a weak constitution that he would die after bleeding a little..." Fang Yuan sighed as well but was on his guard in his heart. Hei Jue's death must be because of these three! Looks like they don't want me to complete the mission! But I'm sure they won't dare to go against the rules of the Holy Mountain to kill me. So... do they want to send me into some dangerous place for others to finish me off?

After becoming Mo He's disciple, he had naturally left a blood jade on the Holy Mountain.

If he died and the image sent back was of his seniors killing him, it might just alarm the Immortal Patriarchs!

Therefore, these three either had to plot something that seemed like there was no foul play, resort to external forces, or send him somewhere that could isolate the blood jade!

"Danger is aplenty in the Agonizing Eagle Gorge, but it's also where cultivators are most likely to hide!" Qing Meng was like a real senior brother now, explaining everything in detail to Fang Yuan. "There are many mysterious realms in this gorge!"

"Mysterious realms? I haven't heard about it before!" Fang Yuan replied with glee.

"How do you think this Agonizing Eagle Gorge formed?" Qing Meng asked with a small smile. "I read in an ancient book that it was created through a battle between two unfathomably strong existences. One of them used his saber and split open the Agonizing Eagle Gorge! This is why the void here isn't stable and is affected by nomological power, creating many mysterious realms... Businessmen who go through here dare not go too close."

"Is it very dangerous in these mysterious realms?"

"Not necessarily. There might be some inheritance and treasures, but there are definitely more dangers than anything else, especially since some of the mysterious realms aren't stable and could explode at any time... That power, perhaps even the Immortal Patriarchs might..." Yuan Wu interjected.

"So... you think that cultivation sect might be hiding within a mysterious realm?" Fang Yuan guessed.

"That's right. That's why we need to search one by one!" Hong Ling replied with a smile.

Yet she was thinking silently in her heart. The people we notified should be arriving soon. Anyway, we can't be involved in this matter! It's not a bad idea to start in the Agonizing Eagle Gorge!

At this point, she said, "It's getting late. Let's rest here first and continue tomorrow."

"All right!" Fang Yuan looked around at the surroundings. The mountains were beautiful, and the river was clean, a great place to bury bones. He nodded.

"I'll set up a defense array. I recently obtained a set of array flags!" Qing Meng immediately jumped out and took the initiative to stick the small red flags all around them.

A misty array formed, isolating the inside from the outside.

"This is... Small Restriction Origin Banner?" Gold Ingot's surprised voice came from the white jade ring.

"Do you recognize this array?" Fang Yuan asked secretly without betraying his emotions.

"Hmm, the defense of this banner is common, but it's most famous for being able to block some information transmissions. Some immortal cave abodes like to use this!"

"What about the blood jade's transmission?"

"It can be blocked. They don't have good intentions. Be careful!"

"Looks like they really can't wait."

...

Fang Yuan sneered in his heart and sat cross-legged to rest.

In his view, the mysterious realms in the Agonizing Eagle Gorge were just spatial distortions. They could help in his enlightenment and comprehension of the Illusion Realm's nomological laws.

Since the three of them mentioned it, he started sensing the Saber Qi within this Agonizing Eagle Gorge.

The might of a saber could actually make permanent changes to the terrain. The person who did this clearly surpassed Immortal!

"If my senses are right, the one who created this Agonizing Eagle Gorge must have comprehended the Saber Great Dao and transcended Immortal! Does... an Immortal have to comprehend a complete Great Dao if they want to break through?!"

He felt as though he gained some enlightenment.

"Look, that Fang Yuan is actually starting to cultivate. He isn't worried about us at all..."

The three of them hid in a corner and started to converse quietly. "Naive!"

"Well... as someone from the Holy Mountain, I really don't want to hurt him. Unfortunately, we can't go against Master's orders!" Qing Meng sighed. "Send the signal!"

Yuan Wu went out of the array silently and came back a moment later. "They'll be here in the middle of the night and have five Primordial Core Fey beasts attack!"

"We might have the Small Restriction Origin Banner, but we have to be on our guard in case fragments were to travel back. We can't be suspected..."

...

They were naturally more enthusiastic toward Fang Yuan after they were done discussing their foul plan.

Fang Yuan accepted it.

He was afraid of no one as long as they were not an Immortal and did not mind playing along with these three.

“Junior Brother, rest assured. A Golden Pill Venerable is the highest among these cultivators...”

Hong Ling had no idea that Fang Yuan had already dealt with a Golden Pill Venerable. She continued in a relaxed manner, “Also... they rarely dare to fight with us since the Hundred Thousand Mountains is our territory!”

“That’s true...” Fang Yuan’s smile was a little awkward as he thought of Venerable Liu He.

This cultivator’s performance was obviously weird. He probably still had a huge network behind him.

Is my luck so good that I hit the jackpot in my first investigative mission? Fang Yuan looked strangely at the three in the Primordial Core realm next to him. In that case, are they here to kill me or here to help to prevent disaster from befalling me?

...

“I followed it all the way to this place. This must be it!”

An elder in purple-gold robes appeared above the Small Restriction Origin Banner Array just as Fang Yuan and the rest were having dinner.

He did not rely on the power of a magic artifact as he stood in the sky, possessing the aura of an expert.

Flying with his physical body, he was an expert at the Apotheosis realm!

At this realm, he would be the envy of many, even in the Holy Mountain! A life-long target for many barbarians.

The survival rate of the lightning tribulation was insignificant to say the least!

Cultivating to the Apotheosis realm meant having a lifespan of a thousand years, which was more than ten times that of ordinary mortals and enough to satisfy many cultivators.

They might yearn for immortality, but that terrifying lightning tribulation was enough to stop most of them at the peak of the Apotheosis realm.

“According to the spies, four Holy Mountain envoys appeared in the Eagle tribe... Three of them are at the Primordial Core realm. They should be the ones who attacked Liu He for him to die!”

This Apotheosis realm powerhouse would never have thought that Liu He perished in the hands of someone at the Materialization realm, thus the conclusion. “A mere Small Restriction Origin Banner Array wants to stop me?”

He grinned and struck out his palm.

The Qi of Heaven and Earth surged and transformed into an angry dragon that slammed on the array.

Rumble!

The array burst. The three of them merrily eating were shocked. “Apo-apotheosis realm cultivator!?”

“Dare to kill my disciple, die!”

The elder in the purple-gold robes sneered and flipped his hand.

Nine golden dragons growled and snarled as they attacked.

Roar Roar!

The ground was raging as the golden dragon danced in the air.

Fang Yuan, Qing Meng, and Yuan Wu flickered and rushed out of the attack range.

“So strong. Junior Sister Hong Ling died in just one move...” Qing Meng’s eyes were nearly bulging out.

“This person must be a Nascent Soul cultivator, comparable to our Apotheosis realm!”

“All because of you...” Yuan Wu’s red eyes stared at Fang Yuan, as though he would attack him the next moment.

“Oh?” Fang Yuan asked innocently, “Why are you blaming me?”

“Let’s not talk about this now. Escape!” Qing Meng saw the Nascent Soul old man’s gaze sweep toward them and shouted in fear, “Split up!”

He felt very aggrieved inside.

A Nascent Soul stage cultivator was absolutely someone high-level in the sects of the outside world.

Why would such a person do something that involved life and death?

“Go!”

A cloud appeared around Fang Yuan, bringing him away from this place. He controlled his speed to be similar to the two Primordial Core cultivators.

“Someone at Foundation Establishment can unexpectedly achieve such speed while escaping. Not bad!” The Nascent Soul cultivator was surprised. He chased after Yuan Wu.

He patted the spirit beast bag around his waist as he chased. Two winged Fey beasts appeared, howling and chasing after Fang Yuan and Qing Meng.

“A Primordial Core realm Fey beast!” Qing Meng’s face showed a hint of despair. “I must not be distracted by it. If not, that old man will come after me once he’s done with Yuan Wu!”

He would kill in the same order if it were him, from strong to weak.

His eyes widened the next moment.

A fog cloud was actually flying quickly toward him with a winged Fey wolf behind it.

“Fang Yuan, are you trying to kill me?”

Qing Meng turned, but Fang Yuan also followed.

“Senior Brother, I thought of a good place to escape to. Right in front!”

Qing Meng looked up. A colorful brilliance appeared across the surface of a lake.

“Mysterious realm? It’s a good place to avoid the Nascent Soul cultivator’s spiritual will, provided we deal with the two Fey wolves first!”

He hesitated no longer and entered into the brilliance.

Fang Yuan followed suit.

Suddenly, space warped, showing a place more than sixteen acres large with overgrown weeds and without much Qi of Heaven and Earth.

"It's a barren mysterious realm! What luck!"

Qing Meng nodded and looked at the two Fey wolves that rushed in. "Just nice. Let's kill them first, and then we should be able to hide for some time."

They had called for help when they met with the attack earlier, but the reinforcements would not arrive so quickly.

However, there was a secret in Qing Meng's heart. In a short while, the five Primordial Core Fey beast would arrive. They should be able to attract attention away from him, maybe even scare the enemy away. He would be a chance of survival then!

Chapter 1055: Slaughter

"Ahwhoooo!"

Two winged wolves circled around, baring ferocious teeth and claws, exuding savageness.

"There's no need to growl. The isolation power of this mysterious realm is greater than the Small Restriction Origin Banner. Even the Nascent Soul can't sense you..."

Qing Meng's face was icy cold as a Fey wolf growled behind him.

It might be one against two at the Primordial Core realm, but he was a core disciple of the Holy Mountain. He had superb magical powers and had no problem fending for himself for the time being.

Now, he would just open a path for the Fey wolves to kill Fang Yuan.

Fang Yuan stepped back and asked calmly, "Senior Brother, what are you doing?"

"It's all your fault!" Qing Meng turned around with bloodshot eyes. "If it wasn't for you, how would it have come to this?"

"What are you saying? I don't understand!"

"Blame your master, Mo He... He offended too many people. If not, we wouldn't have come out to monitor you specifically..." Qing Meng was obviously very assured about the mysterious realm. "Do you know why I stopped pretending? Because I don't want to wait for anyone to come or anything else to happen! I'll let the Fey wolves kill you now! The blood jade won't be able to transmit anything back. Even if it does, it'll just show that my 'assistance' was weak!"

"You actually want to kill me?" Fang Yuan smiled mysteriously. "Senior Brother, do you know that I have an ace up my sleeve?"

"Oh? What?"

Qing Meng crossed his arms proudly, still firm in his thinking that someone merely at the Materialization realm could do nothing to him.

“One of the things I’m best at is killing those at the Primordial Core realm while at the Materialization realm!” Fang Yuan smiled at Qing Meng while an imprint appeared on his forehead. “Nine Star Pearl Mystic Technique... fourth star, activate!”

Poof!

A thread of Saber Qi appeared directly behind Qing Meng’s head, beheading him in one strike.

“I don’t need to be worried since blood jade transmissions aren’t likely in the mysterious realm.”

Fang Yuan sneered and turned his attention toward the two Fey wolves.

They sensed that something was wrong and wanted to escape, but it was in vain because Fang Yuan slaughtered them with ease.

...

Outside the mysterious realm, thunder was rumbling in the sky. Five huge Fey beasts were faintly visible and surrounding the purple-robed Nascent Soul old man in the center.

“Outside cultivator? How dare you come to the Hundred Thousand Mountains? Aren’t you afraid of being entangled by us before eventually being killed by the patriarchs of the Holy Mountain?” A winged snake hissed.

“Hmph. Fey and barbarians are enemies. How dare you use the Immortal barbarians to talk me down!” The purple-robed Nascent Soul Stage old man’s eyes seemed to contain lightning. “Moreover... the Barbarian Ancestral Court, haha... might not be able to continue existing!”

He made a small move, and a huge purple cauldron appeared.

Thunder and fire emerged, and the cauldron immediately sucked the five Primordial Core Fey in.

“So strong!” As he walked out of the mysterious realm, Fang Yuan’s pupils shrank upon seeing this. “The Nascent Soul and Apotheosis realms are indeed far more powerful than the Primordial Core realm! Moreover... this old man is just at the early stage. This purple cauldron is probably a dao artifact. He probably cultivates terrifying nomological laws!”

The Primordial Core Fey collided and struggled against the purple cauldron, but none managed to escape. Every last one of them was refined.

“Ah!!! Humans!”

Towards the end, a white wolf Fey with a single horn on its forehead gave its last cry and vomited out its Fey core.

Bang!

The purple cauldron shook, and cracks appeared on its surface, but it did not break and continued to turn the Fey wolf into ashes.

"I heard that the toughest magic weapons to refine for those outside cultivators are cauldrons, seals, and banners. However, once the refining is successful, they will often have incredible power. I see that it's true today!"

Fang Yuan nodded. "That white Fey wolf has a special bloodline and was the strongest among the five Great Fey, but it couldn't struggle free of the purple cauldron. Is a Nascent Soul cultivator really that strong?"

The purple-robed old man turned toward Fang Yuan all of a sudden, with both eyes like lightning. "My two spirit beasts have lost contact, and your Primordial Core realm companion has disappeared as well. They should be in a nearby mysterious realm. Tell me honestly, and I can spare your life!"

He appeared beside Fang Yuan the next instant.

"Yes... Senior Brother Qing Meng lured the two wolf Fey into that mysterious realm in the lake..."

Fang Yuan pretended to be afraid and brought the old man to the entrance of the mysterious realm.

This old man's aura... hasn't changed the slightest, but there must be a drain on him since the purple cauldron has cracks, and he killed so many Primordial Core realm experts at once!

His thoughts were spinning fast, not resisting as the old man grabbed him and entered the mysterious realm.

"Kill!"

Once they entered, Fang Yuan was expressionless as he activated the fourth star and chopped with all his might.

The Nine Star Pearl was fully active. He was now at mid Materialization and enhancing his strength by sixteenfold, meaning that he was almost equivalent to the early Apotheosis realm. Coupled with his comprehension of the Nomological Laws of Saber at great success, Saber Realm, this attack made the old man change countenance immediately. "You..."

This Nascent Soul cultivator was also down on his luck. He had never imagined that a Materialization realm cultivator could launch an attack at the level of the Apotheosis realm!

Clang!

At the critical moment, the jade pendant around his waist flashed and turned into a black shield.

At the same time, his right hand attacked without hesitation. "Purple Fire Cauldron!"

"Pfft!" Purple Qi in the shape of a cauldron landed on Fang Yuan, making him fly backward and spit blood all over.

At the same time, his Saber Qi fell on the shield, and the sound of shattering rang out.

The purple-robed old was not happy at all as he looked at his jade pendant. There was an obvious crack on it.

"Damn it, you little..."

He waved his hand, gathered the Qi of Heaven and Earth into a light dragon, and was about to release it. However, he was stunned the next moment.

Fang Yuan, who was still flying through the air, suddenly disappeared.

“As expected of the invisibility restriction of the Pantheon Palace. Even an Immortal would miss it if they didn’t examine closely, let alone merely someone at Nascent Soul!”

Fang Yuan gazed through a light screen at the purple-robed cultivator. Coldness spread across his face. “Ready...”

“Impossible. Why did he suddenly disappear? Did he trigger some invisible restriction?”

The cultivator went to where Fang Yuan had disappeared and started to examine carefully.

“Die, old fool!” An arm wielding a saber suddenly appeared from the void. “Double Blade!”

“Purple Cauldron Protection!” shouted the purple-robed cultivator. The purple cauldron appeared and enveloped him in it. The jade protection on his body also activated.

Pfft!

Two saber lights successively cut through the purple cauldron and the jade protection. The power dissipated.

“Haha... Boy, you can’t kill me!”

The cultivator revealed a smile, but his expression changed when he saw yet another saber light. “This is...”

“Triple Blade!!!”

Fang Yuan appeared from the void and landed the blow directly on the cultivator’s body.

A small, human-sized figure appeared with the same facial features as the cultivator. It hugged a small cauldron, glared at Fang Yuan venomously, and started to fly away.

Saber Qi emerged from the void and landed squarely on the Nascent Soul’s forehead.

It shrieked, fell, and dissipated in midair.

“I wonder what I can do with the Nascent Soul of a cultivator.”

Fang Yuan quickly formed some hand seals, and silky lights shot out, enveloping the Nascent Soul and sealing it inside a jade box.

A Nascent Soul stage cultivator, akin to a barbarian Apotheosis realm powerhouse, fell to his saber! Utterly destroyed!

“That move just now!”

Fang Yuan was in a daze as he stood holding his saber in the mysterious realm.

The spatial refraction of the Triple Blade was the improvement he had obtained in the Illusion Realm's nomological laws through comprehending the mysterious realm.

But what made him overjoyed was something else—the other space mystery contained in that last move.

“The Illusion Realm's nomological laws are the Nomological Laws of Space. How can there only be a refraction effect? I accidentally just used another kind... Ignore defense and attack the opponent's vital points directly!”

Space was void. If the saber could fold, it could also penetrate.

For example, directly generating Saber Qi within the opponent's defense and killing them in one strike!

Such a saber technique would be terrifying!

The Triple Blade that Fang Yuan comprehended was nearing such a trend.

“The Illusion Realm's nomological laws indeed have limitless uses. It's worthy of being similar to a Great Dao after complete comprehension!”

Fang Yuan turned over the cultivator's corpse excitedly and found a storage bag. “There should be a lot of good things inside, but they're probably not comparable to that purple cauldron dao artifact!”

His eyes lit up suddenly as he took out a token and two jade slips.

The body of the token was made of green jade and had the words ‘Kun Yun’ on it. There were two sets of cultivation techniques within the jade slips.

The ‘Bi Yuan Technique’ was the cultivation technique that the old man practiced. The other turned out to be some methods for capturing and raising spirit beasts.

“Ordinary cultivation techniques are burdens to me... This token, however, is enough to prove his identity. I've completed my mission.”

Fang Yuan knew his background immediately. He was from the Kun Yun Sect.

Gold Ingot provided him some common knowledge. This Kun Yun Sect might not be a Holy Land, but it was a top sect.

Crucially, it had good relationships with the Holy Lands.

“The Kun Yun Sect's sphere of influence should be in the Kun Yun Mountains and some distance away from the Hundred Thousand Mountains. Why would they send a Nascent Soul Patriarch undercover?”

Fang Yuan fiddled with the token, slightly confused.

Gold Ingot's voice came. “What are you going to do? Report everything upward?”

“Of course... not!” Fang Yuan sneered. “What am I supposed to say? I killed a Nascent Soul cultivator and obtained his token?”

"I'll only say that I found this token on Liu He... A Materialization disciple used cunning tricks to desperately kill a Golden Pill Venerable could be attributed to talent. But that wouldn't work for someone at the Apotheosis realm."

He sighed. "However, the Hundred Thousand Mountains... will become chaotic."

Judging from what this old man said, the outside world must have been watching the Hundred Thousand Mountains for quite some time.

This time, they were definitely going to war.

After all, it was not the first time in history that the barbarians and the outside cultivators went to war.

Chapter 1056: Beginning of War

It was natural to clean up the battlefield after killing the enemy.

Fang Yuan himself was an expert in this aspect. Gold Ingot also gave some pointers, ensuring that all traces pointing to him were gone.

After that, he hid in a corner and concentrated on his cultivation.

Not long after, a white light flickered from the sky and appeared midair. It looked like a small boat approaching at a very fast speed. Some people jumped down from it. The first person had a youthful face, white hair, the figure of a boy, and was wearing colorful feather clothes, but his aura was terrifying.

"An Immortal who transcended the lightning tribulation?"

Fang Yuan rubbed his finger and hid the white jade ring elsewhere.

When he saw Mo He and Wu Qi beside the Immortal, his eyes shone, and he ran out. "Greetings to Master, Immortal!"

"Un, I'm Immortal Brutal Child. What happened to Qing Meng?" the boy in the colorful feather clothes asked lightly, not even mentioning Hong Ling and Yuan Wu.

Obviously, their blood jades already explained everything.

"Replying to Immortal, I don't know!" Fang Yuan raised his head, showing his innocent eyes. "There was a Primordial Core Fey chasing after me at that time. I fled into a mysterious realm and hid until now..."

"Looks like there isn't much hope then!"

Immortal Brutal Child shook his head and glanced around. "There's a very strong aura, at least five Primordial Core Fey with the Silver Moon Fey Wolf among them. Could the Nascent Soul stage cultivator have withdrawn after being besieged by the Fey?"

Five Primordial Core Fey together could not defeat someone at the Apotheosis realm, but they could definitely hold out until an Immortal came.

Therefore, it was completely understandable for the Nascent Soul stage cultivator to withdraw early.

"You're lying!" Wu Qi's face reddened, knowing that his disciples were probably dead. "How could a mere Materialization disciple like you escape from a Primordial Core Fey chasing you?"

"Is Master Wu Qi doubting me?" Fang Yuan turned his head. "You must be joking... Moreover, we're facing a powerful enemy currently. As an elder, why are you staring so hard at an insignificant low-ranking disciple? What are you up to?"

"You..." Wu Qi's veins popped. "What a sharp tongue, kid! I will teach you what respect for elders means today..."

"Wu Qi... it's not your business to teach my disciple!" Mo He coughed, pulled out the curved saber at his waist, and stepped forward.

"You two... enough!" Immortal Brutal Child frowned and pointed at Fang Yuan. "How did you escape from the Primordial Core Fey wolf?"

"Replying to Immortal, this disciple had a sudden breakthrough in law comprehension in that life-and-death situation!"

Fang Yuan bowed, and a lot of Saber Qi appeared around him.

"Comprehending Saber Realm at the Materialization realm and only one step away from completion of the Nomological Laws of Saber? Truly a genius. No wonder you entered the Holy Mountain so early!" Immortal Brutal Child nodded. "You can fight with a Primordial Core Fey beast given your Saber Realm and your spirit artifact!"

No matter how high his realm was, he still required a cultivation base to support it.

In fact, Fang Yuan would not have had such an easy time killing those at the Primordial Core realm if he did not have the Nine Star Pearl.

However, even if he could face someone at the Primordial Core realm with his Materialization realm cultivation and Saber Realm, it did not mean that he could kill a Primordial Core Great Fey nor do anything to a genius disciple of the Holy Mountain.

"Materialization realm, Saber Realm?" Wu Qi gritted his teeth secretly and gave Mo He a surprised sidelong glance. Damn... not only did they not kill this kid, they actually helped him improve! Qing Meng and the others were trash as well!

"Also, this disciple has something to report!" Fang Yuan dug out the Kun Yun Token. "This is the evidence that I've completed the investigative mission this time!"

"It's unexpectedly the Kun Yun Sect?" Immortal Brutal Child took the token, clearly surprised. "Can those outside cultivators finally no longer endure it? This is of utmost importance. I have to go back immediately and discuss this with the other Immortals. You've done well in this matter!"

He waved his hand. Wu Qi and the rest got onto the flying boat and flew away without a trace.

Obviously, nothing was more important to the Immortals than the Kun Yun Sect's intention to invade! Not the fate of three core disciples nor an undercover cultivator at the Apotheosis realm!

There were already signs about the outside world, and this evidence was just one more piece that made Immortal Brutal Child feel the impending crisis.

“So, Master Wu Qi, where is the reward for this mission?” Fang Yuan smiled and rubbed his hands gleefully at Wu Qi.

“You...” Wu Qi was furious, but he could not do anything since even the Immortal had recognized Fang Yuan’s contribution. He threw out a jade box coldly.

“Hmm, it’s indeed the thousand-year Blue Heart Fruit!”

Fang Yuan opened it, handed it to Mo He, and waited until he determined that it had no problems before putting it away. “Thank you, Master Wu Qi!”

“Hmph!” After suffering a double loss, Wu Qi turned around, not wanting to talk to Fang Yuan.

The speed of the flying boat far surpassed that of a four-winged griffin, and the Holy Mountain was in sight in no time.

“You can get off. I have to discuss something with the other patriarchs!”

Immortal Brutal Child flicked his sleeve, sending Wu Qi and the rest to a spot halfway up the mountain.

After watching Wu Qi leave, Mo He turned to Fang Yuan and said solemnly, “Disciple, immediately start cultivating in seclusion when you get back! I was right. The once-in-ten-thousand-year war between the barbarians and the cultivators is about to begin!”

“Understood!”

Fang Yuan did kill many people this time, but he only managed to complete the minimum of what he had set out to do. Fang Yuan had no other thoughts in mind.

At this point, he had to unlock the fifth star and improve his cultivation as soon as possible.

...

The clouds of war were casting their shadow, but there was still some time before the real war began.

Time flew, and half a year passed.

Barbarian Holy Mountain, inside a secret room.

A huge iron barrel was boiling greening-black liquid with charcoal burning below.

Fang Yuan was lying inside, watching his body absorb the greenish-black stuff and the liquid gradually becoming clear. He nodded. “The second level of the Hundred Physical Forging Technique is finally complete!”

Over the past six months, he had spent most of his time on refining his body and comprehending the fifth star.

These two techniques were both extremely profound. Until today, he had not even reached small success.

As for his cultivation? He had reached the peak of the Materialization realm and was one step away from condensing the Primordial Core.

Even so, he felt that he might be able to fight an Apotheosis realm powerhouse head-on with his current foundation and the Nine Star Pearl!

“Other than that, I’ve made progress in comprehending nomological laws. My Nomological Laws of Saber is a short distance away from complete comprehension, and the Illusion Realm’s nomological laws have reached the realm of the Septuple Space-Penetrating Blade!

“My focus next will be on forming my Primordial Core!”

The Primordial Core realm! It was a watershed for most barbarians.

As long as students in the Barbarian Palace successfully cultivated to this level within three years, they would be allowed to ascend the Holy Mountain and become part of the core!

“The greatest benefit of advancing to the Primordial Core realm is sealing a magical power obtained in the Materialization realm into the Primordial Core to become the Destiny Magical Power! I would then be able to comprehend the heaven and earth nomological laws represented by this magical power ten times, no, even a hundred times faster!”

The optimal choice of the Destiny Magical Power was naturally the Innate Magical Power. No one would make any mistakes on it.

“If I set my Illusion Realm Magical Power as my Destiny Magical Power, my sensing of spatial fluctuations will increase by tenfold at least... meaning that my comprehension speed will increase by tenfold! There’s hope in thoroughly comprehending the Illusion Realm’s nomological laws!”

Fang Yuan’s eyes were burning. “I’m now at peak Materialization. I only need an opportunity to condense the Primordial Core.”

The breakthrough in a realm required not only a strong foundation but also the occasional flash of enlightenment.

In this regard, since it was a whole new universe and he had to start all over again, Fang Yuan still needed to adapt slowly.

...

On the Death Plains.

As one of the three passages connecting the Hundred Thousand Mountains and the outside world, the area here was the most extensive, stretching for more than five thousand kilometers.

Swoosh!

Human figures suddenly appeared all over the sky.

They were cultivators flying on magic artifacts, and they were as dense as locusts. Behind them were ships similar to flying war fortresses.

“The Hundred Thousand Mountains will be ours in the end!”

The first Immortal cultivator had red lips and white teeth. His face was jade-like, and his jet-black eyes were passionate. With a jade sword in hand, he flew above a tribe and swung.

Zap!

A sword light dozens of meters long swept across like a galaxy with unparalleled momentum and fell.

“How dare you!”

A figure appeared from the tribe and punched hard, hitting the center of the sword edge.

Clang!

The Sword Qi collapsed and dissipated into thin strands.

“Outside cultivator, I am an inspector from the Barbarian Ancestral Court—Ying Hong! Who exactly are you?”

This person named Ying Hong was at the level of an elder of the Holy Mountain. He hovered in the air with a huge Golden Winged Great Peng behind him.

“I’m Kun Lunzi, the sect master of the Kun Yun Sect. I am on orders from several Holy Lands and brought sects from the Three Mountains and Four Seas here together.”

Kun Lunzi said solemnly, “A Demonic Tribulation is about to occur, bringing harm to all. If the Immortals from the barbarians are willing to join the Combat Heavenly Palace, then everything can be discussed. Otherwise, we will destroy the Hundred Thousand Mountains this time!”

“Demonic Tribulation?!” Ying Hong’s expression changed. “You want to provoke a war? This Hundred Thousand Mountains is the land given to us barbarians by the heavens! You couldn’t occupy it before, and it’ll be the same this time.”

“Hehe... As expected, anyone not of our race will definitely have different intentions. Sect Master, there’s no need to say so much!”

A youngster with white eyebrows and seven flying swords on his back appeared beside Kun Lunzi.

“Seven Stars Sword, unsheath!”

Swoosh!

Starlight exploded, and seven sword lights rained onto the earth. Aided by the power of the stars, they formed an array surrounding Ying Hong. “Today... I’ll give you a lesson!”

...

The cultivators in the rear watched this scene quietly.

Chirp chirp!

It did not take long for the array and golden light to burst.

A Golden Winged Great Peng flapped its wings and disappeared.

“Remember what we said. Tell the Immortals, peace or war will depend on their decision!” Kun Lunzi showed compassion as his voice spread far and wide.

Chapter 1057: Military Division

Thump! Thump!

Solemn drumbeats resounded throughout the Holy Mountain.

“It’s the war drum! Ninety-nine strikes!”

Mo He, who was training on the military drill ground, gently caressed his curved saber. “Other than starting a war with the outside cultivators, there’s no other reason to use the ‘Brutal Blood Drum’.”

“Why are we starting a war with the outside cultivators? Just for ownership of the Hundred Thousand Mountains?” Fang Yuan was slightly puzzled.

Cultivators were not like secular dynasties, so they did not value things like territory.

As for precious mineral resources, rare medicinal herbs, and other items like Fey beast materials, obtaining them through traveling merchants or spies would be more cost-effective.

So why start a war? In his eyes, it was a business that was bound to lose money.

“Regarding the specific reasons, Master only has his guesses. But you must know that our Hundred Thousand Mountains is extremely extraordinary!” Mo He replied solemnly.

“That’s true... After all, it’s the land that nurtured us barbarians.” Fang Yuan nodded.

At least, he knew that there was nothing like totems among the outside cultivators.

Evidently, the lineage of the barbarians of the Hundred Thousand Mountains was very special.

“Not this...” Mo He lowered his voice. “In the outside world, spiritual energy is much denser, and the heavenly materials and earthly treasures from treasured lands are countless. In fact, even the comprehension of those humans surpasses us barbarians. But after transcending tribulation and becoming Immortal, the combat power between the two sides isn’t too different.”

Before crossing the tribulation, barbarians would hold the advantage in solo fights with the help of their totem materializations. But after the tribulation, the human Immortals would faintly have the upper hand.

“In that case, it is indeed extraordinary!” Fang Yuan nodded. “What is Master’s guess?”

“Master believes that perhaps the changes here are related to the Demonic Tribulations...” Mo He said.

“I’ve interacted with some outside cultivators in the past, so I know that their cultivation does not only include their mental demons and heavenly tribulations but the attacks of foreign demons as well!”

“Foreign demons?” Fang Yuan was startled.

“That’s right! Otherworldly demons!” Mo He continued. “They are innately evil demons whose nature is to slaughter. Their growth is extremely rapid. In the outside world, it appears that there’s always a possibility of otherworldly demons arriving during their tribulations. A demon like this is easy to kill

when it's alone, but it seems that after every thousand or ten thousand years, there will always be a time when a large influx of otherworldly demons comes at the same time. To the cultivation world, it is a terrifying calamity!"

"Why are there no records of this?" Fang Yuan was quite doubtful.

"Because... in the history of our Hundred Thousand Mountains, there have never been otherworldly demons arriving. Even if there's a demon calamity in the outside world, it rarely affects us!" Mo He took a deep breath.

"That extraordinary?" Fang Yuan's eyes widened. "The entire world is affected by the otherworldly demons except for the Hundred Thousand Mountains?"

"That's right! Even though our Barbarian Ancestral Court is powerful, being able to preserve the Hundred Thousand Mountains is truly rare." Mo He sighed.

...

"To all barbarian disciples... today, there are Immortals from the outside world who want to kill our compatriots and snatch our territory. We shall never allow this to happen!

"In our Barbarian Ancestral Court, the Immortal Patriarchs have come to a consensus and hereby order: First, all tribes shall cease wars with each other and unanimously fight the foreign invaders! Second, all Apotheosis realm cultivators shall head to the peak of the Holy Mountain for an important meeting! Third, we shall establish nine major military divisions in preparation for war!"

...

A resounding voice spread across the entire Holy Mountain and the Barbarian Palace.

When Fang Yuan heard it, he immediately knew that it was Immortal Brutal Child.

"Master will go there now. Take care of yourself!"

Mo He looked meaningfully into Fang Yuan's eyes before turning into a saber light and rushing toward the top of the Holy Mountain.

"Looks like the Apotheosis realm cultivators are merely heading there to accept and fulfill tasks given to them. The true leaders of the barbarians are still those few Immortal Patriarchs!"

Fang Yuan furrowed his brows. "Is the Hundred Thousand Mountains actually that extraordinary? A hidden land of peace and prosperity despite the attacks from the otherworldly demons? It appears that I've severely underestimated the strength of the barbarian Immortals."

To be able to guard the Hundred Thousand Mountains under such tremendous pressure, there was undoubtedly an unknown hidden trump card within the Barbarian Ancestral Court.

At the very least, their strength would certainly be very powerful.

"I wonder where these otherworldly demons come from... Outside this world? From the midst of chaos?"

This series of matters made Fang Yuan rub his chin as his eyes lit up.

...

The orders from the Barbarian Ancestral Court were no different from an oracle, especially within the Hundred Thousand Mountains.

The orders were above everything else. Even the greatest of life-and-death enemies stopped fighting temporarily to serve the envoys of the Holy Mountain.

Soon, nine military divisions with over ten thousand people each were successfully established and grandiosely set off for the battlefield.

Within the Star Spear tribe, one of the nine military divisions.

Fang Yuan rode on a war beast, looked at the majestic army, and nodded silently. "Everyone in the armies is a cultivator, with the lowest being at the Predatory realm and having a totem!

"Here, those at the Predatory realm are only the most basic warriors. Materialization cultivators are ten-man squad leaders, Primordial Core experts are the hundred and thousand-man commanders, and Apotheosis powerhouses are the highest army commanders! Who knows if there are any Immortals hidden within them!"

Fang Yuan hated a war between cultivators like this one.

Wouldn't it be good if they could simply allow him to cultivate to the point where he could protect himself?

How did a single disagreement result in a war between both sides?

In a war of such a scale between cultivators, even Apotheosis cultivators could perish!

Even Immortals could not guarantee their own safety!

It would be reasonable if it were for a peerless treasure or some dao foundation, but for any other reason, he truly felt too innocent to be dragged into it.

But at this time, there was nothing he could do unless he chose to betray the Holy Mountain and become hunted down as an army deserter.

"If I desert now, the cost would be simply too great. Not only would I become a sworn enemy of the barbarians, but the outside cultivators definitely wouldn't accept me either. If that really happened, I would truly be going against the entire world. Currently, my cultivation level is too low... Fortunately, there's still hope for me in this war if I just want to protect myself."

Fang Yuan's greatest advantage was that he appeared to be only at the Materialization realm! His actual strength had already reached the Apotheosis realm, but nobody knew yet.

As such, unless those above ordered him to die, ordinary military missions should not pose much trouble to him at all.

If he were really sent on missions that he knew he would die on, Fang Yuan would certainly not be reluctant to leave, and he would immediately make use of the Pantheon Palace to depart.

Even if this meant that his future path would be tougher, it was still better than throwing his life away.

A bloodline warrior ran over and shouted, "Hundred-man Commander, we are about to reach the Death Plains! We have orders from above saying that the enemies in the plains will be the responsibility of three major military divisions, Star Spear, Star Scar, and Star Splendor! Military divisions Bright Moon and Scorching Sun will support them!"

"All right!"

These three major military divisions with the word 'Star' in their names were assembled from the tribes subordinate to the Beichen tribe, and they were specifically responsible for fighting on the Death Plains.

As for the four major military divisions from the other two major tribes, they were stationed at the Agonizing Eagle Gorge and the Golden River.

"It seems... the Death Plains will be the main battlefield this time! To think that five armies have been mobilized here!"

Fang Yuan shook his head.

This was no ordinary mortal army but fifty thousand cultivators! The essence of the barbarians was basically all in one place.

...

"Greetings, Commander!"

When the army arrived at the plains, they set up camp. Fang Yuan followed a hundred-man commander and a thousand-man commander to meet his army commander at the main tent.

On the main seat, a barbarian wearing a horned helmet shouted, "The outside cultivators are invading our Hundred Thousand Mountains once again! This act of bullying is intolerable! However, we have the geographical advantage and the Immortal Patriarchs. Brothers, we must work even harder to retain the majority of them here."

"Understood!" Fang Yuan followed the crowd and shouted.

The corner of his eye kept sizing this Apotheosis realm army commander up.

Hmm... this person should be Brutal Witch, with the second-grade totem golden lion king! He was famous a long time ago for leading many successful campaigns. He is a rare and talented army commander!

The barbarian Immortals were not fools and would naturally not select army commanders based solely on cultivation levels.

They would definitely select those truly outstanding army commanders with a minimum cultivation at the Apotheosis realm.

As for those who only knew how to cultivate? They were instead more suitable as personal guards.

“Now, I will begin arranging patrols. Each of you will have your respective areas to patrol, and my guards will kill any undisciplined people! No exception!” Brutal Witch said solemnly. He waved his hand, and a few Apotheosis realm powerhouses stepped out from all four corners.

“We wouldn’t dare!”

Fang Yuan and the other Primordial Core small fries would naturally not dare to disobey Brutal Witch’s orders.

I have to admit, the way Brutal Witch sets up his army is indeed pretty decent. He can be considered a pretty good army commander...

After walking out of the main tent, Fang Yuan walked back to his camp.

As an honorable hundred-man commander, he had a hundred cultivators under his command.

Of course, ten-man squad leaders were generally at the Materialization realm. However, he was a core disciple of the Holy Mountain and received treatment like someone at the Primordial Core realm.

“Those at the Materialization realm from the small tribes can only be ten-man squad leaders, while the powerful core disciples of the Holy Mountain can be thousand-man commanders...”

Fang Yuan walked into the camp and said, “I am your hundred-man commander! Quickly come out to greet me.”

Earlier, when Brutal Witch was deploying the army, he also assigned troops to the various hundred-man and thousand-man commanders. Fang Yuan was assigned the people of this camp.

Swoosh!

Numerous barbarians appeared. Each one of them was tall and mighty, with a saber or hammer in their hands, looking extremely ferocious.

In particular, some of the ten-man squad leaders looked at Fang Yuan with a slightly peculiar expression.

“Eh?” Fang Yuan looked across the crowd and saw an acquaintance. “Brutal Thunder?”

“Fang Yuan, I didn’t expect you to become a core disciple of the Holy Mountain!” The Flybarb tribe’s Brutal Thunder walked out with a shocked expression. “And you’re actually a hundred-man commander!”

“I wonder if everyone else in the tribe is doing well?” Fang Yuan could not help but smile at the situation.

“They’re fine! Most of the bloodline warriors have come out because of the Holy Mountain’s conscription!” Brutal Thunder sighed. “But I don’t know how many can make it back alive...”

Chapter 1058: Battlefield

“Looks like... you ten-man squad leaders aren’t convinced about me?”

After a short conversation with Brutal Thunder, Fang Yuan sneered coldly as he watched the few ten-man squad leaders surround him. "Fine... All of you can come at me together. As long as one of you can make me take a step backward, I will give up my position as the hundred-man commander."

Among barbarians, strength was equivalent to respect, and most of them were brainless muscular men. They immediately agreed. "Good!"

While some were releasing their materializations, some had already charged at him directly.

Chichi!

Fang Yuan stood still, smiling faintly.

An immense amount of Saber Qi suddenly erupted from his body, leaving bloody wounds all over these people.

"This is... Saber Realm?" Brutal Thunder muttered in shock. "No wonder he was accepted into the Holy Mountain in advance and became a core disciple... Fang Yuan was merely average in the tribe, but I never thought that he would improve so drastically after going to the Barbarian Palace!"

After unleashing his Saber Qi, Fang Yuan stood there proudly, overlooking the bloody people in front of him. With the same faint smile, he asked, "So? Convinced?"

He had shown mercy. Even though their injuries looked terrifying, they were nothing more than superficial wounds.

Even though barbarians were foolish, they were not people who could not accept a loss. All of them knelt. "Greetings, Hundred-man Commander!"

"All right! I appoint Brutal Thunder as my deputy. Besides me, you have to listen to everything he says. Understood?" Fang Yuan practiced nepotism without restraint.

The ten-man squad leaders immediately replied, "Understood!"

...

In the blink of an eye, one month passed.

On the plains, Fang Yuan brought a small team out of the camp gates.

"So a war between cultivators in this world looks like this," Fang Yuan muttered with a grass straw in his mouth while looking into the distance.

First, the main force of the opposition was clearly the Kun Yun Sect. Moreover, it was only considered a small influence in the cultivation world.

After all, the outside world was boundless and had plenty of cultivation sects. The enmity between these sects might be even more than their hatred toward the barbarians!

"Next is this form of battle. Because both parties have Immortals overseeing everything, as well as terrifying arrays arranged in the camps, launching a direct attack on a camp is definitely asking for trouble!"

“The most we can do now is to wander around the area divided between both parties in our hundred or even ten-man units to entice enemies before fighting them in close quarters, engaging them in a bitter war of attrition!

“Once a party can’t support the consumption any longer, a direct and open war will naturally start, unless they take the initiative to escape.”

...

Fortunately, this kind of small-scale fighting between tens or hundreds of people would rarely involve the Apotheosis realm, let alone Immortals.

With the strength of his men and some luck, the unit that Fang Yuan led did not encounter many dangers.

His unit had had only one or two casualties, while the nearby unit had losses of nearly twenty to thirty percent, mostly due to bad luck.

Fang Yuan’s reputation was gradually spreading. The other hundred-man commanders knew of a Materialization realm core disciple of the Holy Mountain who might not have high cultivation but was extremely lucky. The unit he led not only won every battle, but it also had the lowest casualty rate.

At a time like this, being able to protect subordinates was naturally going to gain the support of others.

Fang Yuan’s prestige started growing unknowingly from this small unit.

Even barbarians from other units were starting to be envious of such outstanding military achievements and incredibly low casualties. They were so envious that they even wanted to join his unit.

Fang Yuan was not one to forget his roots, so he got Brutal Thunder to look for the people from the Flybarb tribe and had them join his unit. He even took extra care of them once they joined him.

...

“If the Immortals and Apotheosis realm powerhouses are not taking action, it is up to us soldiers to exhaust each other to death!”

This time, Fang Yuan brought some ten-man squad leaders out to fight.

Although this kind of messy war environment was a hindrance to his cultivation, it was not without benefits. At least, he could make use of his military merits to exchange for all the magical powers that he wanted.

As for the heavenly materials and earthly treasures that the Hundred Physical Forging Technique needed? They were extremely valuable to the Immortals. Fang Yuan rolled his eyes after hearing Gold Ingot talk about it and no longer harbored any hopes for the sixth star of the Nine Star Pearl.

“Let’s go!”

He led his ten ten-man squad leaders and disappeared into the plains.

The surroundings of the two big camps of the barbarians and the cultivators were the battlefields for many small units.

“We’ve already entered the danger zone. Pay attention to those hiding!” Fang Yuan warned as his spiritual will spread out to cover five kilometers around him.

This greatly surpassed the range of Materialization spiritual will and was also why he was confident in ensuring the safety of his small unit.

After all, his current spiritual will was definitely at the Primordial Core level. Once he came across any danger, he could activate his mystic technique to raise it to the Apotheosis level. With such abilities, it was naturally easy for him to escape the pursuit of mere Primordial Core cultivators.

In this war of attrition, the competing factors are using spiritual will to detect others and your concealment abilities... Fang Yuan had a sort of realization in his heart. This is the same as radar and stealth fighters in my previous life. Just like spears and shields, both parties need to constantly improve to eliminate each other...

Of course, a war between cultivators was much more terrifying.

“We’ve passed the middle...”

After walking some distance, Fang Yuan smiled lightly and activated the Nine Star Pearl Mystic Technique.

In a split second, his spiritual will expanded infinitely, going beyond dozens of kilometers.

During his scan, plenty of Qi fields appeared one after another.

“Southeast, twenty-five kilometers! A small team of Primordial Core cultivators. They should be elite troops led by a barbarian thousand-man commander!

“Eighteen kilometers north! Traces of cultivators! The opposition has already started to escape in the opposite direction!

“Battle fluctuations in the west... about twenty-two kilometers away!”

...

Vast amounts of information converged for him to summarize. “Let’s head west! Two units encountered each other there!”

“Understood... Haha, I bet they would have never imagined that our leader’s innate spiritual will was so formidable...” Brutal Thunder and the other ten-man squad leaders laughed.

With Fang Yuan exploring for them, the entire battle process... was like cheating.

“How strong are the enemies?” Brutal Thunder asked cautiously after they crossed several kilometers.

“Four at Primordial Core and about a dozen at Materialization. A similar composition to ours...”

Ordinary Predatory realm soldiers were not even considered cannon fodder on an elite battlefield like this. They did not need to head out onto the battlefield, and their only job was to reinforce the arrays back at the camp.

Fang Yuan sensed and smiled slightly. "Seems... like there are a few familiar auras! Let's go!"

His small team sped up, and not long later, even Brutal Thunder sensed the violent fluctuations in the Qi of Heaven and Earth ahead.

"Yan Luo! You won't be able to escape this time! We three brothers came out personally to kill you. You should feel honored!"

Three Golden Core cultivators were on flying swords and looking down, incredibly arrogant.

Below them, Yan Luo had blood flowing from his chest but still continued to shout ferociously, "Outsiders... Die!!!"

On his back, a flame materialization emerged, and it started spitting flames in all four directions.

"Ice Seal!"

The big brother of the three reacted quickly with hand seals.

Ice appeared out of thin air and consumed the power of the flames.

"What are the military merits for killing a core disciple of the Holy Mountain?"

The eyes of the three Golden Core brothers turned red, and they sent out their flying swords. "Three Talents Immortal Trap Array, kill!"

"Damn it!" Seeing this, Yan Luo could not help feeling slightly desperate.

Overwhelming Sword Qi descended, and his subordinates suffered disastrous casualties.

Among them, a female warrior in leather armor shouted, "Hundred-man Commander, don't worry!"

Her jade rabbit totem started emitting astonishing cold air, and it jumped forward with its mouth wide open to gobble up the entire ice wall.

"Tsk! A mere Foundation Establishment cultivator dares to intervene between the affairs of Golden Core cultivators? Courting death!"

One of the cultivators sent a sword light at her.

In the outside world, it was not difficult for a Golden Core cultivator to kill a Foundation Establishment cultivator. But among the barbarians, the gap between the Primordial Core realm and the Materialization realm was like heaven and earth.

A casual attack from one was undoubtedly not something a lower-level cultivator could withstand.

The female warrior struggled desperately against the sword light before her saber flew out of her hand. Her entire body was shaking fearfully, as though she were about to vomit blood.

“Our small team... is probably doomed!” Yan Luo smiled bitterly. “Ten-man squad leaders, escape immediately! Don’t worry about me! Try as hard as possible to get away! The more, the better!”

“Hundred-man Commander?!”

The female warrior trembled, while the other ten-man squad leaders had already started escaping without looking back.

Even though they were honorable barbarians, they would not deliberately throw their lives away in this completely hopeless situation.

“Cough cough...” Yan Luo had merely entered the Holy Mountain slightly earlier than Fang Yuan, so he was among the weakest of the Primordial Core cultivators there. Being surrounded by three Golden Core Venerables, he was in a desperate situation. A sword suddenly pierced through his chest, causing him to vomit blood.

“Am I... really going to die here?”

Just when Yan Luo lost all hopes, he heard a voice. “Senior Brother Yan Luo, don’t worry!”

“Junior Brother Fang Yuan?!” Yan Luo was hopeful again but then smiled bitterly.

If it were any other hundred-man commander, they would be at the Primordial Core realm. Together with him and the advantage of their totems, they might actually cause some trouble for these three Golden Core cultivators.

But this little junior brother? He might be overflowing with talent, but he was still not at the Primordial Core realm!

“Arrange the formation!”

Two waves of troops arrived under Brutal Thunder’s shout. Several ten-man squad leaders abruptly appeared with connected Qi, and the fluctuations were astonishing.

“Kill!” At the same time, Fang Yuan wielded his saber.

Swoosh!

A twenty-meter long saber light extended across space.

His peak Materialization realm cultivation combined with his peak comprehension of the Saber Realm nomological laws was enough to release Saber Qi that could frighten the Golden Core Venerables. He did not even need to use the Nine Star Pearl Mystic Technique.

“A ten-man formation comparable to a Golden Core, and this barbarian at Materialization...” One of the Golden Core Venerables withstood the Saber Qi but was forced back over ten steps. His face turned red as he shouted, “Let’s go!”

“Brutal Moon, how are you?” Fang Yuan descended and smiled at the female warrior.

Brutal Moon raised her head, but her expression was quite complex.

Chapter 1059: News

This female warrior was the Flybarb tribe's Brutal Moon!

The way she looked at Fang Yuan was indescribable.

With her talent, she had worked extremely hard to get to where she was. Back when they were still training at the tribe, she even surpassed Fang Yuan.

But unexpectedly, after the Beichen Ceremony, he was selected to enter the Barbarian Palace. And despite being only at the Materialization realm, he could fight a Primordial Core cultivator, while she had to rely on him to rescue her.

"Junior Brother Fang Yuan!" Yan Luo walked over with an equally shocked expression. "You're actually capable of fighting against Golden Core cultivators? Even though the outside Golden Core is slightly inferior to our Primordial Core, you're only at Materialization..."

"Haha... It's only because my comprehension of the nomological laws is slightly better... Moreover, Brutal Thunder and the rest contributed too!" Fang Yuan laughed it off.

"Yes, that ten-man formation is indeed comparable to Primordial Core and quite impressive!" Yan Luo acknowledged. "How many military merits do I need for you to teach me this?"

"Since Senior Brother wants to learn it, I'll gift it to you." Fang Yuan waved his hands, not minding at all.

As long as it was a powerful force, it would always have one or two types of combined assault formations.

Fang Yuan had dug this one out from the Pantheon Palace. In Immortal Hong Chen's collection, it merely counted as ordinary.

The truly amazing formation was the one back at the barbarian camp that the ordinary soldiers were practicing. That was a true ten-thousand-man combined formation! Incomparable and formidable!

"Without having experience on the battlefield, any previous rankings or talents are all for nothing... True experts are born from the most vicious of wars!"

At the thought of something, Yan Luo said emotionally, "On this battlefield, Junior Brother isn't the only one at the Materialization realm who is this outstanding. Someone killed a Primordial Core cultivator while being at the Materialization realm. He could even escape from the clutches of an Apotheosis expert!"

"What?" Fang Yuan was surprised. "Why haven't I heard of him?"

"Haha..." Yan Luo chuckled. "Because of how talented he is, he has been cultivating in secret. When people saw how brilliant he was on the battlefield, an Immortal Patriarch accepted him as a disciple, and he has been living in seclusion ever since! Only I and a few others have witnessed his squad personally and can verify his talent... He truly has the potential to become an Immortal in the future!"

"There's actually such a monster?" Fang Yuan's eyes widened. "But we better leave this place quickly. We can talk more on the way back!"

“Right!” Staying at one place on the battlefield for a long time was indeed dangerous. Those three Golden Core Venerables were likely to bring other smaller squads over, so Yan Luo nodded swiftly. “Let’s talk after we return!”

Because of how big the Hundred Thousand Mountains was, it was not too surprising for one or two exceptional talents to emerge every now and then. However, Fang Yuan was quite interested, so he continued asking.

“That youth calls himself ‘Bamboo’ and was originally only a ten-man squad leader, but I personally witnessed it... During one of the battles, his totem materialized, and he easily slaughtered an enemy Golden Core cultivator!” Yan Luo replied honestly.

“I wonder what his materialization is?” Fang Yuan asked.

“I didn’t see it properly. Its body was like a snake, and its head was like a human with only one eye. A prominent light shone, and that Primordial Core cultivator died... After that, an Apotheosis realm powerhouse was furious and wanted to kill him, but his body released waves of water that allowed the youth to hold on until the arrival of a patriarch...” Yan Luo’s eyes were slightly distant.

Is it the... Torch Dragon? Fang Yuan guessed.

In his previous life, he had heard records of that materialization. “The Torch Dragon has a human’s face and a snake’s body, created day and night by opening and closing its eye, and created seasonal winds by breathing.”

“This materialization is definitely first grade! But nobody knows what it actually is...” Beside him, Yan Luo exclaimed in admiration. “He was accepted as a disciple by Immortal Brutal Child and is a future Immortal, not someone we can compare to...”

Fang Yuan knew clearly that some terrifyingly strong materializations were so rare that there were no records among the barbarians.

For example, his own Clam Dragon might have appeared for the first time in history as well.

This Torch Dragon was also a deduction from his previous life’s memories.

Regardless, this was undoubtedly a first-grade totem. In addition to that terrifying Innate Magical Power, the Immortals were certainly going to notice him. Otherwise, why would there be expectations of him becoming an Immortal?

If that Bamboo really possesses the Torch Dragon materialization and that Innate Magical Power, there’s a high chance it’s related to the Nomological Laws of Time!

At the thought, Fang Yuan’s eyes lit up.

However, a Torch Dragon with its Innate Magical Power awakened was not to be trifled with. Moreover, he had an Immortal backing him.

At this moment, he was merely digesting and remembering this news.

Before he reached the Primordial Core realm and large success in the Illusion Realm's nomological laws, he did not have the capital to poke his nose everywhere.

...

Elsewhere, the three Golden Core Venerables gathered together.

"We were going to finish them off, but things went off track because of a bunch of Foundation Establishment cultivators... Big Bro, we can't let them off like this!" shouted the youngest, Venerable Wang Qiao.

"Big Bro, what do you think?" The slightly calmer Wang He looked at their big brother.

"That barbarian youth is merely at the Foundation Establishment stage, which is also their Materialization realm, yet he could comprehend Saber Realm. His comprehension ability is no small matter. He could even match my attacks and hurt Third Brother. He truly is a genius!" Wang Tong analyzed. "And we can't underestimate that formation either! Just the three of us might not be enough to take them down, so we should get the elders to help us!"

Both sides agreed that there was no need for Immortals to intervene in such confrontations.

However, powerhouses at the Apotheosis realm, also known as the Nascent Soul stage, could step in every now and then.

To these Golden Core and Foundation Establishment cultivators, a Nascent Soul elder on the battlefield was an existence that they did not want to offend.

As long as Immortals did not show up, they would be the overlords of the battlefield!

At this thought, Wang Tong and the other two took out a jade pendant communications magic artifact. "Elder Yellow Scorpion! We came across a talented barbarian at the Materialization realm with incredible Saber Qi that could match Golden Core!"

"Another one?" From the magic artifact, a flabbergasted voice came. "These barbarians are truly blessed by the heavens. Only a few days ago, an exceptional totem suspected to possess the Nomological Laws of Time appeared, and today, yet another genius with exceptional comprehension appeared! What a pity... what a pity..."

Wang Tong and the two others remained silent, naturally knowing what this elder was feeling regretful about.

Regarding barbarians with talent in comprehension, the outside sects were quite interested in them. In the past, when they found such a genius, they would directly abduct them to train as disciples of their sect.

But now, on this battlefield, they had irreconcilable differences.

"In that case, report your position and the direction the enemies escaped in. I'll head there to take a look. Killing a genius like this will be beneficial to us!"

Hearing what Elder Yellow Scorpion said, Wang Tong and the other two were pleased. "Many thanks, Elder... We are at..."

...

"Gold Ingot... what do you think?" On the way back, Fang Yuan touched the white jade ring hanging around his neck.

Ever since Fang Yuan knew that he was participating in this war, he hung the white jade ring around his neck. With his clothes covering, even Immortals would not casually use their spiritual will to scan him, significantly reducing the possibility of exposure.

"You're talking about that peerless genius? Extraordinary aptitude, but his comprehension ability is far from yours!" Gold Ingot dared not casually reveal his spiritual will and could only communicate with Fang Yuan secretly.

"What if I want to capture him to become my alternative?" Fang Yuan's eyes flashed.

Gold Ingot remained silent, as he also knew about Fang Yuan's clone plan.

"To be honest... I don't recommend it. Based on the previous descriptions, that Immortal Brutal Child treasures that disciple a lot, meaning he's even more important than Xu Lie... If not for this war, you'd basically have no chance!"

Moments later, Gold Ingot's voice came. "You would be taking a great risk and offending an Immortal. Would it be worth it? More importantly, you don't even have the slightest clue about a clone mystic technique. Even if that peerless genius appeared tied up in front of you, you wouldn't be able to do anything with him."

In his opinion, Fang Yuan's actions of endangering himself in search of a clone technique were simply stressing the incidental over the fundamental.

"You don't understand!" Fang Yuan looked solemn.

The Illusion Realm's nomological laws had benefited him a lot just from his current level of comprehension. And the Nomological Laws of Time were the same level as the Illusion Realm's nomological laws, so he could not let it go even more.

If both sets of nomological laws finally sublimated and then combined to become the Universe Space-Time Great Dao, this power would be beyond the wildest imaginations of even a Demon God!

Obviously, he did not want to let an opportunity like this slip away!

"However, I have to say that given your current cultivation base, hidden cards... if you want to abduct someone under the eyes of an Immortal, it will be extremely difficult!" Gold Ingot warned at the end.

"I know. Before I'm absolutely confident, I won't act! As for a clone technique, I'll continue working hard to look for one!"

Fang Yuan heaved a long sigh.

He was quite confident that the youth named Bamboo's totem was the Torch Dragon!

If he missed out on this opportunity, he might not find a better one even if he obtained a clone technique in the future.

Even with his Pantheon Enhancement Technique, he needed a fulcrum to transform into a dragon!

“For that, I have to prepare ahead of time!” Fang Yuan was determined. “Ultimately, the key is to look for clone techniques. If I need to create a body out of nothing or use some treasures, it would be problematic. I just want it to have a barbarian totem so that I can use the Pantheon Enhancement Technique to raise its aptitude. But the best method would still be those that can directly split the Essence Soul and seize a body...”

...

While he was deep in thought, he merged his team with Yan Luo’s team and retreated swiftly.

Throughout the journey, they were incredibly jittery.

“Hmm?” After spreading his spiritual will, Fang Yuan detected another team. “Another small team of ten led by a Primordial Core cultivator. They’re barbarian troops. Beichen Yan and Bei Tangman are also among them! Looks like they just came out?”

One group just came out while they returned, so they coincidentally met.

Yan Luo and Fang Yuan saw a core disciple of the Holy Mountain bringing Beichen Yan and the rest out. He looked at them in a slightly provocative manner. “Isn’t this Yan Luo and Fang Yuan? Why are you in such a sorry state?”

Chapter 1060: Decisive Battle

“A disciple of the Holy Mountain, Luo You?”

Fang Yuan exchanged glances with Yan Luo, and his expression turned cold.

Mo He had offended many people from the Holy Mountain, and Luo You’s master was one of them.

“I’ve heard all about Mo He’s amazing new disciple, but why is he only at the Materialization realm? The Predatory realm and Materialization realm are only equivalent to the outside world’s Foundation Establishment stage. Did a few Foundation Establishment cultivators surround you?” Luo You asked in astonishment with a clear tone of mockery.

“Fang Yuan!” All of a sudden, Beichen Yan stepped out. “I want to challenge you. We are both at the Materialization realm. This time, I won’t lose!”

“I don’t have time!”

Fang Yuan exchanged glances with Yan Luo as they passed through the crowd.

“Haha... are you scared?” Beichen Yan obtained Luo You’s signal and blocked their path. “Fang Yuan, I challenge you to a bloodline warrior’s battle. If you refuse to accept, you’re a coward!”

Among the barbarians, dying was better than being called a coward.

“Scram!” Fang Yuan glared viciously while releasing his killing intent.

Beichen Yan's expression turned pale as he backed off. Then his face turned red. "What? I-I won't."

Beichen Yan felt ashamed.

"Luo You, if you want to challenge me, I'll take you on. You don't have to sow dissension like this!" Fang Yuan turned around and said slowly, "But if we battle, it must be a battle to the death. Do you dare?"

"I..." Luo You gritted his teeth. He was about to accept when his expression suddenly changed.

A strong, ice-cold spiritual will crashed down on him.

"Not good! A Nascent Soul stage enemy!"

"Why is a cultivator at this level finding trouble with us instead of looking for an Apotheosis realm patriarch?!"

"Split up!"

...

Beichen Yan's team plunged into chaos, while Fang Yuan and Yan Luo exchanged glances and escaped toward the main camp.

"I've sent a distress signal that a Nascent Soul cultivator is here. Our Apotheosis cultivators won't sit by," Yan Luo transmitted while escaping. "It'll be fine as long as we get through this!"

How fast was a Nascent Soul cultivator? He clearly had the upper hand.

Furthermore, three familiar Golden Core spiritual wills appeared as the distance shortened.

"Haha! Barbarian boy, you can't escape!" Wang Tong's laughter resounded.

"Damn it..." Luo You's face turned pale. "Yan Luo, Fang Yuan, what did you do? You've brought the wrath of a Nascent Soul cultivator!"

"You guys deal with the soldiers. Leave the Primordial Core cultivators and the young man to me!"

A golden glow flickered, and a bald man in golden robes appeared in midair.

"Understood!" Wang Tong and his brothers responded loudly. They began controlling their spirit artifacts as they chased after the Materialization cultivators.

"Sure enough. He's coming after me!"

Fang Yuan felt a strong Nascent Soul's spiritual will lock onto him, and chills ran down his spine.

Chichi!

The next moment, resounding booms echoed, and two golden lights arrived.

In the direction of the camp, several streaks of light were also approaching. They were barbarian Apotheosis Patriarchs.

"I can't expose myself!"

He gritted his teeth and activated the third star of the Nine Star Pearl Mystic Technique. Then he swung the Nine Profound Spirit Saber backward.

Bang!

A powerful wave rushed forth, flinging him onto the ground.

At the same time, Yan Luo cried out desperately. A golden light pierced through his chest, and blood spurted out.

“This is war!”

Fang Yuan burrowed underground and withdrew his aura completely, shaking off the spiritual will detection.

“Eh?” In the air, Yellow Scorpion was slightly stunned. He extended his right hand, and two golden-jade daggers emerged. One was pristine, while the other was bloodstained.

“With a blow from a patriarch, the Primordial Core cultivator died, while the one at the Materialization realm survived? He must have a protective treasure... However, how many times can you block?”

Yellow Scorpion laughed coldly and was about to send out his daggers again when streaks of light rushed over. “Stop!”

Two Apotheosis realm barbarians flew over, floated in midair, and questioned, “Yellow Scorpion! Do you want to start a massive battle now?”

“Haha... so be it! Do you think I’d be afraid?” Yellow Scorpion laughed heartily.

Below, Wang Tong and his two brothers worked together to launch an attack. Luo You screamed as swords lodged into his body.

“Die!” An Apotheosis realm elder was enraged. A yellow bird totem appeared, and green wind blades converged into a tornado that surged downward.

Clang!

Wang Tong and the other two were obviously not a match for the green wind blades. However, just as they were about to die, an enormous and amazingly sturdy yellow bell descended from the sky to block the green wind blades.

Although human cultivators did not have materialization magical powers, they specialized in comprehending nomological laws and refinement.

“Thank you, Elder Yellow Bell!”

Wang Tong and the other Golden Core cultivators bowed to a yellow-bearded elder at once.

“Hmph! Another one!”

An Apotheosis realm barbarian snorted as he swung his sleeve.

Numerous vines shot out, carrying the remaining barbarians toward the camp.

"It's a bit regrettable that we couldn't kill that genius this time, but we still killed two Primordial Core cultivators. This isn't bad. Let's return!"

They were already quite close to the barbarian camp. Even Nascent Soul cultivators did not want to stay here for too long.

Otherwise, even if the Immortal Patriarchs did not make a move, a group of Apotheosis realm cultivators would be sufficient to encircle and kill them.

...

"Hmm, you're Mo He's disciple, Fang Yuan?"

After flying back, an Apotheosis realm barbarian landed in the camp and stared at the surviving Fang Yuan. "It's actually a top-grade spirit artifact robe. No wonder you survived..."

His expression was faint, his current state of mind unreadable.

"Thank you, Senior. May I ask for your name?" Fang Yuan put on a bold face and bowed.

"Hmph. I am Wood Vine! Relax, I have a personal vendetta with Mo He, but I won't do anything to you!" Elder Wood Vine snorted coldly before disappearing.

"Okay, return to your camps. Those of you who have lost comrades, I believe the army commander will have orders soon!"

Fang Yuan shook his head. He ignored Beichen Yan's complicated expression and led his subordinates back to his camp.

"Sir!" A soldier stepped forward. "Commander Brutal Witch's orders! After the hundred and thousand-man commanders return, they are to practice the formation and withdraw from battle! You are to remain on standby and wait for further orders!"

"I understand!" Fang Yuan waved his hands, sending the messenger away. His expression turned serious. "... Is the decisive battle finally about to begin? Unexpectedly, the barbarians were the first to be unable to hold on!"

Even though the attackers were only a small part of the forces from the outside cultivation world, the barbarians were still unable to withstand it.

If this war of attrition had not put them in a disadvantageous position, Brutal Witch would presumably not start the decisive battle now.

It seemed like things were not looking optimistic for the barbarians in this great cultivation war.

...

Seven days later.

Two armies faced off on the Death Plains.

Large numbers of Predatory and Materialization realm barbarians stood on the grassy plains. Apotheosis realm cultivators flew in the sky, while Immortal Patriarchs remained hidden to observe the cultivator army before them.

Compared to them, the cultivator army looked more like immortals. Most of them were flying on their weapons, looking majestic. Flying ships and a palace hung in the sky with Nascent Soul and Immortal Patriarchs inside them.

“At first, the barbarians had five military divisions with fifty thousand troops total, exceeding the number of the cultivators. But after the war of attrition, we barbarians suffered greater losses. The numbers are nearly the same on both sides now.”

Seeing this scene, Fang Yuan was in disbelief.

Logically, barbarians had the help of totem materializations and inherently enjoyed the thrill of battle, so cultivators at the same realm should not be a threat to them.

However, this was obviously not the case.

Fang Yuan blinked and guessed. “It looks... like the enemy army commander’s ability surpasses ours. Is this why we lost our advantage?”

All of a sudden, streaks of light shot out from both armies.

Rumble!

Grand auras erupted, seeming to suppress thousands of cultivators. They must have crossed the lightning tribulation and were powerhouses at the Immortal Realm!

“Brutal Child, Brutal Extinction, and Brutal Emperor greet Fellow Daoists!” Three barbarian Immortals spoke first.

Among them, Brutal Child looked like a child, while Brutal Extinction and Brutal Emperor were eight feet tall, looking as if gods of war had descended.

“Haha, no need to be polite!” Three streaks of light shot out from the cultivators’ palace in the sky and transformed into three old men with the demeanor of immortals. “Xuan Yuanzi, Kun Lunzi, and Shan Shuizi greet Fellow Daoists! The three of you are pursuing the Immortal Dao as well. Is it necessary to kill each other like this?”

“Hmph. If it weren’t for you, why would we fight?” Immortal Brutal Extinction grunted.

Xuan Yuanzi sighed. “This matter isn’t up to us. We’re acting according to the divination of our elders. In twenty years, a Demonic Tribulation will descend upon us! In preparation for that, we’ve reconstructed the Combat Heavenly Palace. The entire cultivation world must unite against the enemy!”

“I think you have hidden motives and want to seize his last land of peace and prosperity!” Immortal Brutal Child said bluntly.

“If you’re willing to accept cultivators from the outside world, we can call off this war.”

“Since we can’t agree, we can only settle it on the battlefield!”

...

Immortals were all steadfast. Once they made up their mind, they would not change it easily.

He sighed before giving orders.

“Brutal Army, onward!” Brutal Witch’s harsh voice mobilized the army.

“Kill!”

Numerous barbarians roared as they emitted black Qi that condensed into a giant spirit midair.

Dark clouds covered the giant spirit’s lower body while its upper body was a barbarian with sturdy muscles. Its vicious fangs stuck out ferociously as it roared into the sky.

“Ten Thousand Immortal Formation, flying sword attack!”

Across them, Immortals transmitted their penetrating voices. Streaks of light shot out, and flying swords lined up closely like fine needles to create an enormous heavenly sword.

“Attack!”

“Kill!”

The black giant spirit roared and swung its fist to collide with the tip of the heavenly sword.

Heaven and earth ruptured!

The two large formations collapsed simultaneously, and countless barbarians and cultivators vomited blood.

“Change formation, materializations go!” Brutal Witch issued another order. The five great military divisions split into ten-thousand-man armies.

Roar Roar!

Totem materializations flew upward. Finally, they converged at one spot and turned into an Azure Dragon, Phoenix, White Tiger, Black Tortoise, and Taotie!